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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *Ref.*

REMARKS AT THE  
MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1975

MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER ELLIS, MOST WORSHIPFUL  
BROTHER FOWLER, GRAND MASTERS, AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE  
FRATERNITY, BROTHERS AND FRIENDS:

THE DEDICATION OF THIS MEDALLION GIVES ME GREAT  
PLEASURE AND IS AN HONOR THAT I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH.

WHEN I TOOK MY OBLIGATION AS A MASTER MASON,  
I RECALLED THE VALUE MY OWN FATHER ATTACHED TO THE ORDER.  
BUT I HAD NO IDEA THAT I WOULD EVER BE ADDED TO THE COMPANY  
OF THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY AND TWELVE OTHER MEMBERS OF  
THE ORDER WHO ALSO SERVED AS PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

MASONIC PRINCIPLES -- INTERNAL, NOT EXTERNAL --

AND OUR ORDER'S VISION OF DUTY TO COUNTRY AND ACCEPTANCE

OF GOD AS SUPREME BEING AND GUIDING LIGHT HAVE SUSTAINED ME

DURING MY YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE. TODAY, ESPECIALLY,

THE GUIDELINES BY WHICH I STRIVE TO BECOME AN UPRIGHT MAN

IN MASONRY GIVE ME PERSONAL STRENGTH. MASONIC PRECEPTS

CAN HELP AMERICA RETAIN OUR INSPIRING ASPIRATIONS WHILE

ADAPTING TO A NEW AGE.

IT IS APPARENT TO ME THAT THE SUPREME ARCHITECT  
HAS SET OUT THE DUTIES EACH OF US HAS TO PERFORM,  
AND I HAVE TRUSTED IN HIS WILL, WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT  
MY TRUST IS WELL-FOUNDED.

AS OUR NATION APPROACHES ITS TWO HUNDREDTH  
ANNIVERSARY, WE LIVE IN CHALLENGING TIMES.

IT WAS ALMOST TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO,  
IN THE DARKEST DAYS OF OUR WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE,  
THAT GEORGE WASHINGTON ANSWERED A QUESTION THAT  
IS ASKED TODAY. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THINGS  
ARE AS BAD AS SOME SAY.

GEORGE WASHINGTON ANSWERED: "WE SHOULD

NEVER DESPAIR, OUR SITUATION BEFORE HAS BEEN UNPROMISING

AND HAS CHANGED FOR THE BETTER, SO I TRUST, IT WILL AGAIN.

IF NEW DIFFICULTIES ARISE, WE MUST ONLY PUT FORTH NEW

EXERTIONS AND PROPORTION OUR EFFORTS TO THE EXIGENCY

OF THE TIMES."

*EX IGENCY*

LET US TODAY REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO NEW EFFORTS --

AS MASONS AND AS AMERICANS. LET US DEMONSTRATE OUR  
CONFIDENCE IN OUR BELOVED NATION AND A FUTURE THAT WILL FLOW  
FROM THE GLORY OF THE PAST. WHEN I THINK OF THE THINGS

RIGHT ABOUT AMERICA, I THINK OF THIS ORDER WITH ITS SENSE

OF DUTY TO COUNTRY, ITS ESTEEM FOR BROTHERHOOD AND TRADITIONAL

VALUES, ITS SPIRITUAL HIGH PRINCIPLES, AND ITS HUMBLE

ACCEPTANCE OF GOD AS THE SUPREME BEING.

TODAY, WE HONOR OUR FIRST PRESIDENT,

WHO WAS ALSO OUR FIRST MASONIC PRESIDENT.

IN A LETTER IN 1798 TO THE GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND,

WASHINGTON USED SOME WORDS THAT ARE NOW ESPECIALLY

APPROPRIATE.

WASHINGTON TOLD THE ORDER THAT HE <sup>W</sup>CONCEIVED

IT TO BE THE INDISPENSABLE DUTY OF EVERY AMERICAN . . .

TO COME FORWARD IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS CHOICE,

AND TO GIVE ALL THE AID IN HIS POWER TOWARDS MAINTAINING

THAT INDEPENDENCE WHICH WE HAVE SO DEARLY PURCHASED. <sup>W</sup>

SUCH INVOLVEMENT BY EVERY AMERICAN IS AS ESSENTIAL  
TODAY AS IT WAS IN GEORGE WASHINGTON'S DAY.

I EXPRESS MY THANKS FOR THIS TRIBUTE.

AND I ASK THAT WE RESOLVE TOGETHER TO HONOR GEORGE WASHINGTON  
AND AMERICA BY PERPETUATING THE NATIONAL HERITAGE

HE ENGENDERED THROUGH THE PRINCIPLES WHICH GUIDE OUR ORDER:

FRIENDSHIP, MORALITY, AND BROTHERLY LOVE.

I THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT  
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN  
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS *PA*  
SUBJECT: Remarks at the Masonic National Memorial

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: \_\_\_\_\_

Noon, Monday, February 17, 1975, at the Masonic Nat'l Memorial

SPEECHWRITER: Friedman

EDITED BY: Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:  
Scheduling, Advance, and the George Washington Masonic Memorial

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

- (X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIAISON (Marsh) *Jm*
- (X) PRESS (Nessen) *RHN*
- ( ) LEGAL (Buchen) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cole) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) RESEARCH (Waldron) *AW*
- (X) OTHER Bill Baroody *JW for*
- (X) Jerry Warren
- ( ) \_\_\_\_\_